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Application No.: 10/077,851

Docket No.: 1509-280

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 9-11, 13-15 and 20-33 are pending in the application. The claims have been amended to better define the claimed invention. Claim 33 has been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection of claim 1 is believed overcome in view of the above amendments.

With respect to the Examiner's claim interpretation, Applicants respectfully submit that the digital credential transfer is not readable on the transaction.

The repeated rejections of all claims as being anticipated by *Stefik* are noted. Although Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's rejections, amendments have nevertheless been made to further define the claimed invention over the art.

In particular, independent claim 1 now additionally recites the step of **monitoring, in real time**, the digital credential that has been transferred over said secure connection. Applicants note the Examiner's reliance on numerous passages of *Stefik* for a similar limitation in claim 23. Applicants have carefully reviewed the applied portions of *Stefik* and still failed to locate any teachings of the claimed monitoring.

Applicants further note the Examiner's argument that the *Stefik* digital work, which is transferred from Repository 1 to Repository 2, is readable on the claimed digital credential. However, after the digital work/"credential" has been transferred to Repository 2, there is no

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teaching or suggestion by *Stefik* that such transferred digital work/"credential" is monitored in real time as presently claimed. *Stefik* teaches at best that the digital work is rendered, but not monitored in real time.

Applicants respectfully submit that *Stefik* also fails to teach or suggest the claimed verifying step which is performed, as recited in amended claim 1, after the transfer of the digital credential. *Stefik*, as applied to the Examiner, discloses the opposite, i.e., the verification (that all conditions associated with the rights are satisfied) is performed before the transfer (of the digital work from Repository 1 to Repository 2).

For the above advanced reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is patentable over the applied art of record.

Independent claims 9 and 15 now include a limitation or limitations similar to amended claim 1, and are therefore believed patentable over *Stefik* for at least the same reason(s) presented above with respect to the corresponding limitation(s) of amended claim 1.

The dependent claims are considered patentable at least for the reasons advanced with respect to the respective independent claims. The dependent claims are also patentable on their own merits since these claims recite other features of the invention neither disclosed, taught nor suggested by the applied art.

For example, as to claim 6, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner that it would have been obvious to modify *Stefik* with an ID certificate. The *Stefik* "digital credential" includes the digital rights associated with the digital work and need not include any user's ID certificate because such would be redundant. In the *Stefik* system, the digital rights/"credential" is/are used to identify a digital work, not an user.

As to claims 20 and 13, Applicants respectfully submit that *Stefik* does not teach or suggest

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the claimed step of **presenting**, via a graphical user interface and in human-readable format, to a user at either or both of said first and second nodes **the digital credential that has been transferred over the secure connection**. Thus, claim 20 and 13 require that the presenting step be performed after the transfer of the digital credential. In *Stefik*, the digital right grammar are not presented to any user after the transfer from Repository 1 to Repository 2.

As to claim 22, Applicants respectfully submit that *Stefik* does not teach or suggest the claimed step of **presenting**, via a graphical user interface and in human-readable format, to a user at said first node **a list of credentials of said user**; and allowing the user to select at least one of the credentials from said list as the digital credential to be transferred over the secure connection. In the cited portion of *Stefik* (column 19, line 55 - column 20, line 7), there is no teaching of credentials of a user. All that is disclosed in the cited portion of *Stefik* is "credentials" of a digital work.

As to claims 23 and 11, Applicants respectfully submit that *Stefik* does not teach or suggest the claimed step of **presenting**, via a graphical user interface and in human-readable format, to a user a list of digital credentials **which have been transferred** over the respective secure connections and verified to be trustworthy; and allowing the user to monitor and intervene on the credentials in real time. See the discussion *supra* as to claims 13, 20.

As to claims 25-27, Applicants respectfully submit that *Stefik* does not teach or suggest the claimed step of **monitoring, in real time and by said second node, the requested digital credential** that has been issued by said second node and transferred to said first node. *Stefik* is completely silent on whether the digital rights/work is/are at all monitored in real time by Repository 2 after the transfer from Repository 1.

As to claim 33, Applicants respectfully submit that *Stefik* does not teach or suggest that the claimed monitoring comprises at least one of (1) checking the validity of said digital credential and

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(2) verifying the trustworthiness of said digital credential against said at least one policy, by said second node and either periodically or at a user's initiative. After the transfer of the digital work from Repository 1 to Repository 2, the transferred digital work/rights is/are not disclosed or suggested by *Stefik* to be verified/checked by Repository 2 either periodically or at a user's initiative as presently claimed.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been traversed/overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 7, 2006